

It's Up to You!

During every rain, pollutants left on our parking lots, driveways, roads and yards are washed down our storm drains which flow into our natural waterways. The Department of Conservation and Recreation is working with watershed towns, citizens and businesses to clean up stormwater runoff and improve the health of our lakes, streams, wetlands, and the Wachusett Reservoir.

Homeowners can do their part in improving the health of our waterways by adopting the swimming pool discharge practices listed within this brochure.

It's the Law

Sending pollutant laden runoff down the storm drain is not only bad for the health of our water ways, it's illegal. State and Federal Law prohibits the discharge of pollutants into surface water, stormwater, and groundwater.

Report Pollution: If you notice illegal dumping, or see, hear about or even suspect activity which you believe is against the law and placing people's health or natural resources at risk, contact the
Environmental Strike Force at:
1-888-VIOLATE (1-888-846-5283)

More Pollution Control Practices:

- Store pool chemicals safely where they will not be subjected to rain events.
- Use fertilizers, pesticides sparingly or not at all.
- Landscape your yard with bushes, trees and mulched beds to produce less runoff.
- Do not dump yard waste in streams
- Inspect and repair your septic system regularly.
- Wash cars on a grassy area with phosphorus-free detergents or use a car wash that recycles wash water.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways and dispose of sweepings in the trash.
- Pick up pet waste and cat litter and dispose of in the trash.
- Fix any vehicle leaks.



Division of Water Supply Protection
Wachusett Reservoir Watershed
180 Beaman Street
West Boylston, Ma. 01583

Swimming Pools and Surface Water Quality



Best Practices Guide for Swimming Pool Owners in the Wachusett Watershed

Never drain pool or hot tub water directly into a body of water (lake, stream, wetland).

The best option is to discharge chlorinated water over landscaping when the following provisions are met:

- Shut off the chlorination system or stop adding chlorine several days before draining pool water. Chlorine levels in discharge and filter backwash should be lowered.
- Make sure the pH level is between 6.5 and 8.5, the normal pH range of surface and ground waters.
- If your pool contains algae or a black film, collect the algae and flush down the toilet. Do not put it in a stream, lake or river because algae are a potential pollutant.
- If your pool is cleaned through an acid cleaning or by water pressure, make sure pH levels are normal before draining the water. Filter out any paint chips that may break away.
- Direct pool water and backwash over grassy or landscaped areas to help filter discharge before it reaches a storm drain. Drain pool water where it will not flow directly into a street, gutter, or someone else's property.

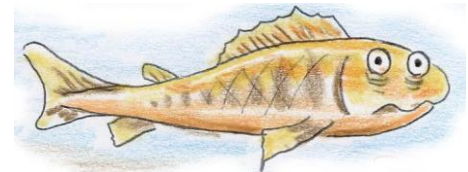
Many pool owners who live within the Wachusett Watershed drain their swimming pools to reduce maintenance and potential damage from freezing during the winter. Please follow the Pollution Prevention Practices listed in this brochure when draining your swimming pool or hot tub to ensure you have done your part to keep our waterways healthy and cleaner.



Pollutants that enter most storm drains within the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed ultimately end up in a drinking water supply- the Wachusett Reservoir

Swimming pools are a major source of chlorinated water discharged into storm drainage systems.

Chlorinated water discharged directly to surface waters or via storm drains has an adverse effect on local water quality.



Chlorinated water from swimming pools that has been discharged into a storm drain, street or gutter ends up in a stream or river where it produces by-products that are highly toxic and Carcinogenic to fish and other wildlife. These by-products then can combine with other organic materials to form extremely toxic organic chemicals.

